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STOURM, R. *Cours de finances, le budget*. Seventh edition, brought down to date. (Paris: Alcan. 1913. Pp. xv, 621. 10 fr.)

WAGNER, A. and DEITE, H. *Histoire de l'impôt depuis l'antiquité jusqu'à nos jours*. I. *Depuis l'antiquité jusqu'à 1815*. Bibliothèque internationale de science et de législation financières. (Paris: Giard & Brière. 1913. Pp. x, 330.)

The fourth volume of the French translation of Wagner's work.

————— *The imperial tariff for 1913*. (London: King. 1913. 4s. 6d.)

————— *Taxation of forests*. (Boston: Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests, 6 Hancock Ave. 1913. 50c.)

Contains "Principles Underlying Forest Taxation," by Dr. B. E. Fernow; "Forest Taxation," by Professor F. R. Fairchild; and "Practical Application of Taxes to Forests," by Professor Charles J. Bullock.

————— *Annuaire général des finances, 1912-1913*. (Paris: Giard & Brière. 1913. 6 fr.)

Population and Migration

Immigration and Labor. By ISAAC A. HOURWICH. (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1912. Pp. xvii, 544. \$2.50.)

The subtitle of this book is the Economic Aspects of European Immigration to the United States; and to its preparation Dr. Hourwich brings the training of a physician, a lawyer, a college teacher and an expert of the United States Census Bureau. In the main, the book is a brief for practically free immigration, and an attack on the methods, findings, and recommendations of the Immigration Commission, and on the views of Messrs. Jenks and Lauck as stated in their recent book *The Immigration Problem*. The present volume is a serious and comprehensive study, taking up almost every phase and argument of the immigration question, and must be reckoned with by the restrictionists.

The opening chapter is a dogmatic statement of the author's standpoint, and the succeeding chapters contain the detailed proof of the various propositions set forth in it. Dr. Hourwich agrees with the commission and with Jenks and Lauck that the immigration question is essentially an economic one. He claims that the alleged effects of recent immigration in substituting inferior races, causing a decline of the native birth-rate, increasing the public burden of insane, feeble-minded, and paupers, and lowering the standard of living, are not sustained by the evidence.

As to the economic question, he disagrees with the commission and with Jenks and Lauck. He contends that the demand for labor is increasing faster than the population; that the natives and earlier immigrants, instead of having been crowded out of employment, have been pushed up into higher positions; that immigration regulates itself automatically in response to the demand for labor; that the reduction of the hours of labor, the rise in wages, and the increase in the numbers of organized laborers have been due to recent immigration. He also claims that recent immigration is not responsible for the increase in work accidents, as is commonly contended by employers and foremen; and he argues that the restriction of unskilled labor, as recommended by the commission, would result in a relative oversupply of skilled labor, and consequently in a disarrangement of the conditions of industry. The statistical tables which he uses to support these views abound in the main body of the book; they occupy 26 pages of the appendix, and are taken or compiled chiefly from the reports of the commission, now being printed, and from the last census.

One of the author's main criticisms of the Immigration Commission is that it failed to make an adequate comparison of the present with the past; that it occupied itself chiefly with collecting new material and did not concern itself with historical perspective. But it is precisely this lack of historical perspective which vitiates the author's own method, and makes some of his most important conclusions fallacious. All through the book, he contends that the lowest immigration of today should be compared with the lowest immigration of forty or fifty years ago; and that, if it appears that the former is not inferior to the latter in standard of living, in mortality, and in social and political capacity, no objection can be made to it.

Now in the first place, it is not "recognized on all sides that the present movement for restriction of immigration has a purely economic object" (p. 1). A large part of the restrictionist propaganda is based on the view that the Mediterranean, Asiatic, and African races are not fitted by inheritance and training to take part in a democracy requiring an intelligent, self-reliant, and homogeneous citizenship. But aside from this, the author's argument overlooks the fact that the world has progressed in the last fifty years, and that the standards of living and of capacity are higher now than then. It is perfectly true that

objections were made to the earlier German and Irish immigration similar to those now made to that of the South Italians, Greeks, Syrians, and Armenians. No doubt, some of the earlier objections were perfectly just at the time; but today immigrants of the same grade as the lowest of the "old immigration" are really more objectionable, because the general level of living and intelligence has risen both in this country and in Europe. The mere fact that this country has survived some objectionable immigration in the past does not prove that it was desirable, or that we should let in everybody now. So, the fact that there were bad housing conditions and congestion in 1834, for example, in New York city, is no reason for allowing a much larger immigration which lives under the same conditions in 1913.

A good example of the author's fallacious reasoning is his contention that the "new immigration" has been the cause of shorter hours of labor, of the growth of trades unions, and of improved factory inspection. *Post hoc, propter hoc*. These changes have been almost world-wide, occurring in countries like England and Australia, which have practically no immigration, as well as in France and Germany, which have. It may be noted in passing that, in these and other matters, the author relies upon the figures of the commission where they happen to support his views, and attacks them as unreliable where they do not.

Dr. Hourwich dismisses in six pages General Walker's theory that immigration has had a profound effect upon the native birth-rate, although most economists agree with General Walker, as did the Industrial Commission. Because "no decrease of the number of common laborers among native whites of native or foreign parentage appears in any of the great states which serve as receptacles for immigration" (p. 11), and because since the new immigration "the number of American-born employees of every parentage has more than doubled" (p. 11), he argues that there has been no displacement of native labor. But, in the normal course of things, there should have been a very large increase in the employees of native stock; and the author does not show that the increase was not chiefly due to the descendants of immigrants, who though politically native were racially foreign.

Another example of lack of perspective is the author's habit (*e.g.*, pp. 31, 319, 336) of comparing conditions in the Southern and Western states, which have received little immigration, with the Northern and Eastern states; and of arguing that any improvements in the latter have been due to the new immigration.

They might as well be attributed to the old immigration which has had the greater measure of political control; but, in fact, organization and regulation of industry largely depend upon density of population. He argues that because scarcity of labor in the Western farming states has not raised wages to the level of the Eastern manufacturing states, restriction of unskilled labor would not raise wages in the latter; and, on the last page of the book, he classes restriction with the greenback and free silver delusions. If his theory is correct, our people must indeed be deluded; for, among those appearing at congressional hearings during the last twenty years, practically every employer of labor has objected to restriction because it would raise wages, and every wage-earner to free immigration because it lowered wages. Were they all mistaken? According to the author's logic, all that would be necessary to produce much better conditions for everybody would be the importation of some millions of Chinese and Hindus; but the Pacific slope has been sufficiently deluded to prevent that.

Many of Dr. Hourwich's figures cannot be verified at this time, as the report of the Immigration Commission is not yet published; but attention may be called to one or two cases of the careless or casuistic use of statistics. On page 70 he compares the illiteracy of immigrants with the illiteracy of the countries from which they come, and says: "These statistics prove that measured by intellectual standards the average immigrant is above the average of his countrymen who remain behind." But it has been repeatedly pointed out, as Dr. Hourwich ought to know, that the figures of the illiteracy of immigrants, based as they are on the immigrants' own statements, are absolutely unreliable for purposes of comparison. The alien has no motive to lie to the census-taker in his own country; but his desire to stand as well as possible, and the coaching instructions given him, partly with the object of minimizing apparent illiteracy, make him frequently give false replies to the inspectors on this side. The writer has personally tested this matter at Ellis Island for a number of races, and found enough fraud to vitiate any such comparison as is here attempted. Similar considerations apply to the statements of aliens that they are going to join friends or relatives (*cf.* p. 94).

On page 353, Dr. Hourwich gives the number of all defectives and delinquents in 1904, according to the census, as 634,877; and in 1908, according to the Immigration Bureau, as 610,477,

and says: "A comparison of these figures clearly shows that the large immigration of the five-year period 1903-1908 was accompanied by an actual decrease of pauperism and crime." The inference intended to be drawn is that the good quality of the immigration improved the total population in these respects. It is a cardinal rule never to compare the figures of different bureaus of the government if it can be avoided. It is also well known that the instructions to enumerators issued by the Immigration Bureau and by the Census Bureau were not identical, although the headings of the tabulated results are similar. If we compare the enumerations of alien defectives and delinquents by the Immigration Bureau in 1904 and 1908, we find the following:

*Alien Inmates of Penal, Insane, and Charitable Institutions
of Continental U. S., Porto Rico, and Hawaii*

	1904	1908
Total	44,985	60,339
Charitable	15,396	19,470
Penal	9,825	15,306
Insane	19,764	25,563

In other words, alien defectives and delinquents, in spite of deportations, increased 15,354, or 34 per cent, between 1904 and 1908. If Dr. Hourwich's figures are correct, there must have been a marvellous falling off in the number of native and naturalized defectives and delinquents during this period; but the true explanation probably is that he is comparing groups of different areas. Whatever the explanation is, the figures given above show exactly the opposite of his contention.

On page 354, the author argues that the new immigration is desirable because it furnishes a smaller percentage of pauperism than the old; yet, on page 357, he quotes Dr. Claghorn's very just conclusion that pauperism "is the result of a considerable period of life and experiences here." There is nothing to show that the new immigration will not furnish even more paupers than the old when it has been here as long.

It would seem that, in a volume devoted entirely to the economic aspects of immigration, there should be some discussion of the question why, if we are to have a tariff at all, it should not be applied to labor as well as to commodities. But the word "tariff" does not appear in the index, and the subject is not dealt with in the text. Space does not permit a detailed notice of the many points Dr. Hourwich makes. The book is full of valuable statistics

and comments, and should be read by everyone studying immigration; but the general conclusions in it should be accepted with caution.

PRESCOTT F. HALL.

The Negro at Work in New York City. A Study in Economic Progress. By GEORGE EDMUND HAYNES. Columbia University Studies in History, Economics and Public Law, Vol. XLIX, No. 3. (New York: Longmans, Green and Company. 1912. Pp. 158. \$1.25.)

This is a companion volume to the study made among the negroes in Philadelphia by Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois. It is based upon the records of 2,500 negro families, comprising 9,788 persons, from the schedules of the state census of 1905. There are two general divisions, the first dealing with negro wage-earners, and the second with negro business enterprises. The results show that the working population is composed largely of adults born in the southern states and the West Indies. Over 40 per cent are engaged in domestic and personal service, and 20 per cent in trade. Although the negro servant ranks well as far as regularity, capability, and honesty are concerned, the wages for this class are low. In mechanical pursuits the negro must be above the average in skill and intelligence if he would obtain the same wages as the whites. The author estimates that the number of business enterprises in the hands of negroes in Manhattan is about 475. In 309 of these, schedules were obtained by a personal canvass and material for the second part of the volume thus procured. The West Indian negroes seem to have been more successful in business. All of the establishments were doing retail business and in many cases were handicapped by lack of capital, yet the volume of business done is surprisingly large.

The statistics for the first half of the volume are not quite as satisfactory as are those for the portion devoted to business enterprises. Many questions were not answered in the census inquiry of 1905, and in these cases about 400 negro workers were personally visited—too small a number for a statistical investigation of this kind. The tables are well made and intelligible. The volume is a distinct contribution to our knowledge of the progress of the colored race and it is to be hoped that it will stimulate an interest in other students to make similar investigations in other large cities.

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